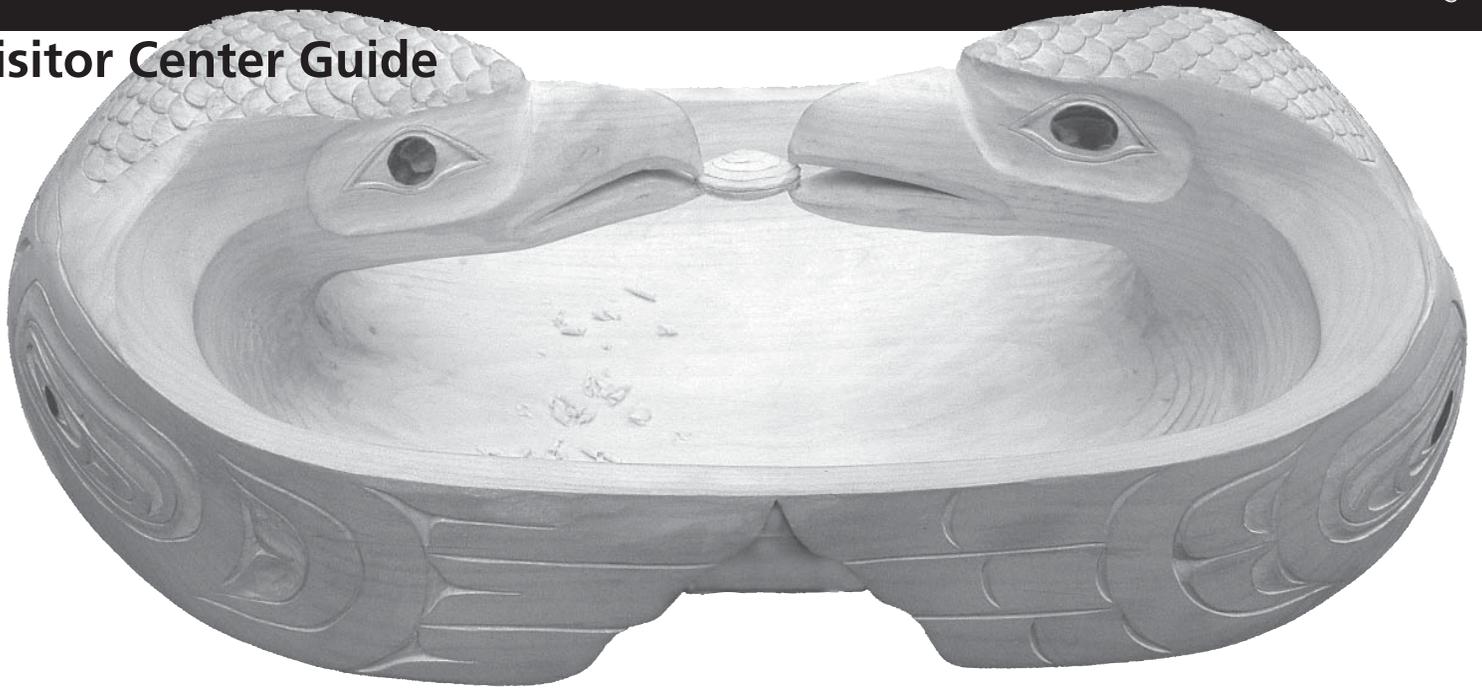




Visitor Center Guide



Sitka National Historical Park and the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center (SEAICC) have worked closely together to celebrate and demonstrate the Native cultures of southeast Alaska for over 35 years. The current visitor center opened in 1965 to house historical exhibits and Native Alaskan cultural demonstrations. In 1969 a partnership agreement was formed with the Alaska Native Brotherhood to conduct these cultural demonstrations, a program that would eventually become the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.

Who we are



The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



SEAICC's mission is to sustain and perpetuate the art and culture of the southeast Alaska Indian tribes in a manner that honors ancestral values. The center achieves this goal by providing a place for southeast Alaska Natives to teach and study their own culture, while also helping park visitors understand the Native people whose history is part of the park story.

What we do

First established as a Federal Reserve in 1890, then designated a National Monument in 1910, the park preserves and interprets sites associated with the Battle of 1804 between local Tlingit Indians and Russian colonists, as well as historic and modern totem poles, Russian and Native artifacts, and temperate rain forest and beaches. In 1972 Congress added the historic Russian Bishop's House and renamed the park Sitka National Historical Park.

A variety of ranger-led talks, walks, demonstrations, a Junior Ranger program and Russian Bishop's House tours are available to the public. Interpretive presentations are designed to increase enjoyment and understanding of park significance.

Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center offers both students and visitors the opportunity to learn about Northwest Coast Native art. Park visitors can view artists working and can talk to them about their craft and culture. In addition, SEAICC offers courses in traditional Northwest art such as beadwork, weaving, wood carving, and precious metal work.

SEAICC also sponsors special projects like the raising of the Haa leelk'u has Kaa sta heeni deiy Pole, a thirty-five foot totem pole in front of the park's Visitor Center, and the carving of Kassda Heeni Yaakw, a traditional Tlingit canoe.



Room by Room



1. **Visitor Center:** View a 12 minute park video, enjoy a ranger-led program, explore cultural exhibits and experience the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.
2. **Exhibit Hall:** See traditional Tlingit items, many on loan to the National Park Service from local clans that periodically remove their items for ceremonies. The continued use of these precious objects underscores their ongoing cultural importance.
3. **Bookstore:** The non-profit Alaska Natural History Association offers publications, postcards, and educational materials on Russian American history, local Native cultures, and other Alaskan themes.
4. **SEAICC Fiber Arts Studio:** See beading and weaving, including traditional techniques at least 5000 years old for weaving baskets from roots. Mountain goat wool is used for robes.
5. **SEAICC Precious Metals Studio:** Observe the delicate art of engraving copper, silver and gold. Items carved are still used in traditional ways for decoration, ceremonies and trade.
6. **SEAICC Carving Studio:** Investigate the traditional art of wood carving. Experts demonstrate their skills as they explain the cultural context of the art.
7. **Totem Hall:** View original totem poles, some over 200 years old.
8. **Outdoor Totem Exhibit:** Step outside to see more original totem poles and how conservation techniques to preserve the poles have evolved over time.



The Visitor Center, Cultural Center, and bookstore are open daily May through September and a visitor use fee is charged. Visits are free during the winter, though days, hours, and staffing may vary. For further information, call (907) 747-0110 or visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/sitk. To contact SEAICC call (907) 747-8061 or e:mail seaicc@gci.net.

